

Credential **Handbook**



Georgia
Assemblies of God

6330 Peake Rd
Macon, GA 31210



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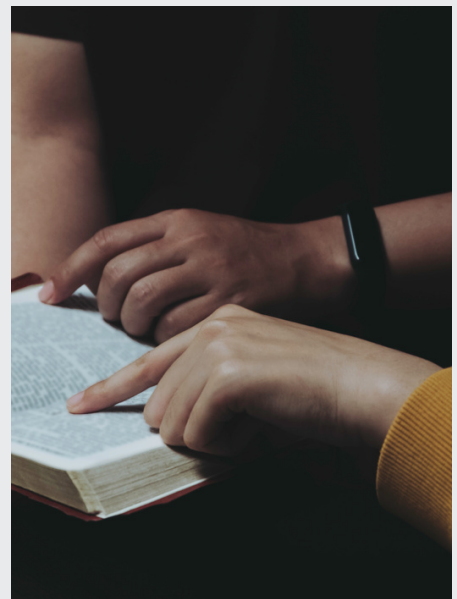
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Instructions to Candidates

This handbook has been prepared to give helpful information to those who have a call to ministry and may be seeking ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God Fellowship through the Georgia District Council.

All candidates should acquaint themselves with the teachings, practices, and purposes of the fellowship as revealed through the Constitution & Bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. The General Council Constitution & Bylaws can be found at this website:

<https://ag.org/About/About-the-AG/Constitution-and-Bylaws>.



Ministerial credentials are for those who show a genuine call of God to ministry, which would take them beyond the confines of their local church. Ministerial credentials are not for lay people engaged in teaching, worship leading, or occasional exhortation in the local assembly. It is the responsibility of the Credentials Committee to carefully screen all candidates to determine whether their ministry would be best served as a lay ministry or if the candidate should be credentialed. If you are unsure if a credential is needed, contact our office.

16 Fundamental Truths

All candidates seeking credentials with the Assemblies of God must agree with the 16 tenets of faith. These are non-negotiable. If a candidate disagrees with any of the following fundamental truths, they should discuss their concerns with the District Secretary before actually beginning the application process. Applicants who do not agree with the 16 fundamental truths will not receive credentials.

WE BELIEVE:

1. **The Scriptures Inspired** 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21
2. **One True God** Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22
3. **The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ** Matt 1:23, 28:6; Luke 1:31, 35; 24:39; Acts 1:9,11; 2:22; 2:33; 10:38; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3; 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22
4. **The Fall of Man** Genesis 1:26-27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19
5. **The Salvation of Man** Luke 24:27; John 3:3; Romans 8:16; 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; 4:24; Titus 2:11-12; 3:5-7
6. **The Ordinances of the Church** Matt 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:4; 1 Corinthians 11:26; 2 Peter 1:4
7. **The Baptism in the Holy Spirit** Mark 16:20; Luke 24:49; John 7:37-39; Acts 1:4, 8; 2:42-43; 4:8; 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Hebrews 12:28
8. **The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit** Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28
9. **Sanctification** Romans 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; 12:1-2; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12, 12:14; 1 Peter 1:5; 1:15-16
10. **The Church and Its Mission** Psalm 112:9; Matthew 25:37-40; 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8; 4:29-31; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 12-14; Galatians 2:10, 5:22-26; 6:10; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:22; 4:11-16; Colossians 1:29; Hebrews 2:3-4; 12:23; James 1:27
11. **The Ministry** Psalm 112:9; Mark 16:15-20; John 4:23-24; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; Ephesians 4:11,16; James 1:27
12. **Divine Healing** Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:14-16
13. **The Blessed Hope** Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Titus 2:13
14. **The Millennial Reign of Christ** Psalm 72:3-8; Isaiah 11:6-9; Ezekiel 37:21-22; Micah 4:3-4; Zephaniah 3:19-20; Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27, 30; Romans 11:26-27; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6
15. **The Final Judgment** Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20, 20:11-15; 21:8
16. **The New Heavens and the New Earth** 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21-22

Baptism in the **Holy Spirit**

A person seeking to be credentialed with the Assemblies of God **must have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.**

We believe this is not a one-time experience, but rather, this should be an ongoing experience and a regular part of a minister's devotional life. The candidate must believe and proclaim that the initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues.

Legal Residency **Requirement**

It is a requirement that an applicant for credentials who is not a citizen of the United States of America have proof of a legal working status in the United States. Foreign students temporarily in the United States for educational purposes are not eligible for credentials. It will be necessary for the non-citizen applicant to provide either a copy of their green card or a lawful nonimmigrant temporary work visa before an application will be processed.

Application if **Divorced**

If an applicant for credentials has been divorced and remarried and their former spouse is still living OR if their spouse has been divorced and has a former spouse still living, the divorce needs to be recognized by the General Council Executive Presbyters **before** an application for credentials can be processed. Please contact our office to request an Application for Recognition of Divorce.

Abstinence Standards & **Requirements**

The Assemblies of God believes that for the sake of adhering to the highest ministerial standards, a minister will abstain from alcohol, tobacco, or other smoking, gambling, pornography, recreational or illegal drug usage, or any sinful behaviors specifically prohibited by Scripture. Any person applying for credentials must agree to this standard for as long as they hold credentials.

An applicant for credentials must be free of any of the above issues for **at least 12 months before applying** for or upgrading credentials. Those struggling in this area should contact the District Secretary.

Application / Filing **Fees**

Credential Application ... \$125*

Upgrade Application ... \$125*

- Nonrefundable if applicant withdraws



Basic Qualifications For Recognition

(Quoted from the General Council and District Council Bylaws)

The following qualifications pertain to applicants for ministerial recognition:

1. **Salvation.** Testimony to having experienced the new birth [John 3:5]
2. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable a minister to fulfill the fourfold mission of the church.
3. **Evidence of Call.** Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.
4. **Christian Character.** A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without [Titus 1:7; I Timothy 3:7].
5. **Doctrinal Position.** A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
6. **Assemblies of God Polity.** A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and Georgia District Council Constitution and Bylaws.
7. **Voluntary cooperation and commitment to the Fellowship.** An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older mature Christians and those in positions of authority. By voluntary it is meant that, upon learning the principles, doctrines, and practices of the Assemblies of God, and by seeing the benefits to be derived from being associated with such an organization, persons of their own free choice decide to become members, thus subscribing to all that for which the organization stands. For the minister, by cooperation, it is meant to the best of one's ability, complying with all decisions setting forth and defining duties and responsibilities incumbent upon members of the organization. It includes active participation and respect for the will of the majority expressed through constitutional processes. Hence, for the minister, voluntary cooperation means that when the minister decides to become a cooperating member of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation and participation thereby becomes obligatory and not optional.
8. **Basic Educational Requirements.** No specific level of formal academic achievement [diploma or degree] shall be a requirement for credentials; credential applicants shall meet the following criteria:

Basic Qualifications **For Recognition**

(Quoted from the General Council and District Council Bylaws)

Continued...

- All applicants are required to be interviewed by the Georgia District Credentials Committee and, in preparation for the interview, pass a standard exam approved by the General Presbytery whereby they demonstrate knowledge of the Bible, Assemblies of God doctrines, and ministerial practices, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee or permitted by General Presbytery policy; and either
- Successfully complete equivalent training to that indicated above, preferably in paragraph (c) below, preferably, in an endorsed Assemblies of God post-secondary school; or in a seminary, college, Bible college, or school approved by the Georgia District Credentials Committee consistent with criteria established by the General Council Credentials Committee; or
- Successfully complete courses prescribed by the General Presbytery, through General Presbytery-approved training programs that align with the courses for each of the three levels of credentials; or
- Be recommended by the Georgia District Credentials Committee as qualifying for credentials through self-study and ministerial experience. Such candidates shall have a proven and fruitful ministry of substantial duration. Requests from the Georgia District for such a candidate shall be presented to the General Council Credentials Committee and may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

9. Mandatory Screening. All applicants for ministerial credentials shall be screened through a designated screening agency established by the General Council Executive Presbytery. The screening shall be done prior to the submission of the application to the office of the General Secretary.

10. Marriage Status. The General Council disapproves of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce is recognized under one of the following biblical categories:

- a. Recognition of preconversion divorce (2 Corinthians 5:17);
- b. Recognition of abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15)
- c. Recognition of spousal infidelity (Matthew 19:9)
- d. Recognition of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Matthew 18:6; Ephesians 5:28-33; Colossians 3:19); 6
- e. Recognition of ecclesiastical annulment – a pronouncement declaring a marriage invalid as hereinafter provided. In such cases there must be clear and satisfactory evidence of deception, or fraud, unknown to the applicant at the time of marriage. Additionally, the lack of consummation or other conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a valid marriage union can constitute an ecclesiastical annulment.

Each case requiring a recognition of divorce or ecclesiastical annulment shall be decided by the Executive Presbytery on an individual basis as to whether the termination of that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials. Appeals of the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

For Recognition

(Quoted from the General Council and District Council Bylaws)

Continued...

11. Eligibility of women: The scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word [Joel 2:29; Acts 21:9; I Corinthians 11:5]. Women who meet the qualifications for ministerial credentials are eligible for whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and have the right to administer the ordinances of the church and are eligible to serve in all levels of church ministry, and/or district and General Council leadership.

12. Ministers from Other Organizations. If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the Credentials Committees of both the General Council and the Georgia District Council are under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:

- a. Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
- b. Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
- c. Submit a letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister or sectional presbyter for the applicant's area.
- d. Submit a recommendation from the body with which the minister was formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation should be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry, two of whom should be from the applicant's former credentialing body.
- e. Pass the credential examination.
- f. Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for ministers transferring from other credentialing bodies.
- g. Meet with the District Credentials Committee for an oral interview.
- h. Be recommended by the District Credentials Committee for action by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- i. All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with laying on of hands by the District Presbytery at the next annual District Council. All other applicants so approved shall receive the appropriate level of credential recognition.
- j. Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition will relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee upon recommendation of the Georgia District Council Credentials Committee for a minister serving as a missionary in this country who hold a credential with a member body of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship, or in special and/or unique cases.

Specific Qualifications

1. **Residency requirements of applicants.** Applicants for all credentials must be residents of or hold credentials in the Georgia District and appear before its credentials committee.
2. **Certified Minister.** They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote full or part-time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the Georgia District Credentials Committee, remain under the supervision of a pastor or a ministry coach or a mentor. They shall show evidence of a divine call and be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry and proclamation of the gospel, except in case of ill health or advanced age.
3. **Licensed Minister.** Qualifications for a License shall include clear evidence of a divine call, character, and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the proclamation of the gospel.
4. **Ordained Minister.** Qualifications for Ordination are outlined in the New Testament [I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9]. In addition:
 - a. Applicants must be 23 years of age or older.
 - b. They must have met all the requirements in making application and in completing the prescribed application form.
 - c. One must show evidence of a divine call and has held a ministry license and has been actively engaged in ministry for **at least 2 full consecutive years** immediately prior thereto.
 - d. **Residency Requirements of Applicants.** Applicants must be residents of or hold credentials in the Georgia District and appear before its Credentials Committee. The Georgia District Council is required to refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another district, until such licensed minister shall have been a member of the Georgia District for at least 1 year. If the applicant has not been a member of the Georgia District for 2 full consecutive years, he must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the Officiary of the district in which he was previously licensed, as well as the Georgia District.

Educational Requirements

For applicants who have attended an endorsed Assemblies of God college with a ministry major, (or at least 24 credit hours of Bible/Theology classes) credit will be given as follows for those who have completed:

▶ **2yrs (48 hrs) Certified** ▶ **3yrs (72 hrs) License** ▶ **4yrs (96 hrs) Ordained**

For applicants who have not had formal Bible/ministry training, the General Council Presbytery has adopted the Ministerial Studies Diploma with courses as the minimum standard for credentials for applicants.

PATHWAY

Pathway is an online learning platform that helps you meet the educational requirements for credentials. This is a subscription app-based program. To sign up or just look around: <https://pathway.training/>.

GLOBAL UNIVERSITY / BEREAN SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE

The Berean School of the Bible is a branch of Global University, Springfield, Missouri. The courses may be ordered directly from them by visiting their website at www.globaluniversity.edu. If it is preferable to take the courses at the college level to receive college credit, then enrollment should be made with Global University rather than Berean.

NON-MINISTRY MAJOR – AG COLLEGE GRADUATE

An applicant who has attended an endorsed Assemblies of God college/university but did not have a ministry major should request to have their transcript evaluated by the Credentials Specialist to determine what supplemental coursework would need to be taken.

NON-AG BIBLE COLLEGE GRADUATE

Applicants who have attended a non-Assemblies of God Bible college should request that their transcripts be evaluated. Applicants who attended a non-AG Bible college will need to take a minimum of three courses: Assemblies of God History, Missions, and Governance, Introduction to Pentecostal Doctrine, and Ministerial Ethics; and other courses may also be required.

The Class Comparison Chart on the next page shows the approved classes to be taken through Pathway and Berean School of the Bible (Global University).

NOTE: If you were Certified before 2021, class requirements for the Certified and Licensed levels have changed. Please reach out to the credential department for evaluation of your transcript.

Pathway & Berean Class Options for Credentials

Pathway Course:

Berean Courses:

Certified (Level 1) Courses	
Synoptic Gospels: The Life & Teachings of Christ	Christ in the Synoptic Gospels
Introduction to Hermeneutics: How to Interpret the Bible	Introduction to Hermeneutics
New Testament Survey	New Testament Survey
Old Testament Survey	Old Testament Survey
Spirit-Empowered Church: An Acts 2 Ministry Model	A Spirit-Empowered Church: An Acts 2 Ministry Model
Relationships and Ethics in Ministry*	Relationships and Ethics in Ministry*
Beginning Ministerial Internship	Beginning Ministerial Internship
Introduction to Pentecostal Doctrine*	Introduction to Pentecostal Doctrine*
Assemblies of God History, Missions, & Governance*	Assemblies of God: History, Missions, & Governance*
Introduction to Theology: A Pentecostal Perspective	Introduction to Theology: A Pentecostal Perspective
Licensed (Level 2) Courses	
Acts: The Holy Spirit at Work in Believer	Acts: The Holy Spirit at Work in Believers
Prison Epistles: Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon	Prison Epistles: Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians and Phillippians
Romans: Justification by Faith	Romans: Justification by Faith
The Local Church in Evangelism	The Local Church in Evangelism
Introduction to Homiletics	Introduction to Homiletics
Effective Leadership	Effective Leadership
Introduction to Assemblies of God Missions	Introduction to Assemblies of God Missions
Conflict Management for Church Leaders	Conflict Management for Church Leaders
Intermediate Ministerial Internship	Intermediate Ministerial Internship
Eschatology: A Study of Things to Come	Eschatology: A Study of Things to Come
Ordained (Level 3) Courses	
The Corinthian Correspondence	Corinthian Correspondence
The Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy	Pentateuch
Poetic Books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Songs	Poetic Books
Preaching in a Contemporary World	Preaching in the Contemporary World
Church Administration, Finance, and Law	Church Administration, Finance, and Law
Pastoral Ministry	Pastoral Ministry
Advanced Ministerial Internship	Advanced Ministerial Internship
Prayer and Worship	Prayer and Worship

***General Council Required - can never be waived**

Application Process

STEP # 1

Candidate must complete the Pre-Application found on the website at www.gadistag.org. If you have transcripts, please upload them when filling out the pre-application. If you do not have a copy, you will need to request a transcript prior to submitting the application. **Please allow a minimum of one week for your application to be reviewed.**

STEP # 2

Once approved, candidates will receive an email with credential application instructions. Please note that the application will be completed through DocuSign. Once an applicant has completed the application, if they are married, the spouse will receive an email to sign their portion of the application.

Upon receipt of your application, and application/filing fee, a **background/credit check** will be run on the applicant. Credit issues may affect an applicant's eligibility for credentials.

STEP # 3

Take the Exams: All applicants must pass all exams with 70% or better.

- The Exam is broken down into three parts:
 - **Bible Knowledge** - No helps allowed - taken by Certified, new Licensed, and Recognizing Ordination from another Organization candidate.
 - **Doctrine** - A Bible without any concordances, notes, or dictionaries will be provided for you to use - taken by Certified, new Licensed, and Recognizing Ordination from another Organization candidate.
 - The 16 Fundamental Truth section of the exam: List each Truth and 2 scripture references. You are unable to receive partial credit if you miss one part of each Truth.
 - **Polity** - Paper copy of the AG Constitution & Bylaws will be provided - taken by new License, Upgrade to License, and Recognizing Ordination from another Organization candidate.
 - There is no exam for those **Upgrading to Ordination**.
- Comprehensive Study Guides will be emailed in the credential application instruction email.
- Exams will be given at the Georgia Assemblies of God District Office.

Application Process

continued...

STEP # 4

Be Interviewed: All credential candidates are required to be interviewed.

1. All applicants will be required to meet with the Georgia District Credentials Committee for an interview.
2. The purpose of the interview is to get acquainted, assist in areas of concern that may have been indicated on the application or on the written exam, and advise of benefits and responsibilities as a member of the Georgia District.
3. The applicant will be notified of the time and place for the interview. It is required that the spouse/fiancée/fiancé (where applicable) be a part of the interview.
4. Following the interview, the Credentials Committee (the District Presbytery Board) will approve or disapprove the granting of credentials. If approved, your file will be sent to General Council for final approval and issuing of the credential.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

DEADLINE DATES: All application materials from Step 1 & 2 need to be received in the District office by the deadlines posted below.

STEP 1 & 2 DEADLINE

September 15, 2026

December 15, 2026

June 15, 2027

STEP 3: EXAM DATE

October 13, 2026

January 12, 2027

July 13, 2027

STEP 4: INTERVIEW

November 10, 2026

February 2, 2027

August 10, 2027

IT IS THE APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO BE SURE THEIR FILE IS COMPLETE BY
THE DEADLINE DATE.

Minister's Tithe Responsibility

The Georgia Assemblies of God tithing policy for credential holders as recorded in the Georgia District Bylaws, Article XV, Section 4, Paragraph A. **This is a requirement for the annual renewal of ministerial credentials.**

Ministerial Income

(You receive income from a faith-based organization)

90% of your tithe (9%) is to be paid to the Georgia District Council.

Example:

Your gross pay per month is \$3,000 from church employment

- Tithe to the District Council: *\$270 per month*
- Tithe to your Church: *\$30 per month*

Other Income

(Secular employment)

65% of your tithe (6.5%) is to be paid to the Georgia District Council.

Example:

Your gross pay per month is \$3,000 from secular employment

- Tithe to the District Council: *\$195 per month*
- Tithe to your Church: *\$105 per month*

General Council

Dues

Payable at giving.ag.org/home

Pay directly to General Council - not to be included in your tithe to the District.

Certified Ministers		\$10 per month (\$120)
Licensed Ministers		\$20 per month (\$240)
Ordained Ministers		\$25 per month (\$300)

Contact Us

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